# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3981
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
RECRUITMENT TRAGEDY IN LUCKNOW
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;RAM JEEVAN SINGH;SHYAMA SINGH

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of aspirants who gathered for recruitment of general duty soldiers at the Army Signals ground in Lucknow Cantonment recently were drowned in the septic tank when its cover caved in;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Government into the tragic incident;

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(e) the details of compensation paid to the families of those killed in the accident?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3981 18.4.2002

Approximately 3000 candidates had gathered at the recruitment rally site on 14th March 2002. Adequate crowd control measures by way of civil police, fire tenders, Military Police personnel and Army Personnel on duty for recruitment were available for ensuring smooth conduct of the rally. Unfortunately, due to caving in of the cover of a septic tank, 24 aspirants were drowned in the septic tank and subsequently died.

2. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Headquarter Lucknow Sub Area.The inquiry is in progress and the outcome thereof is awaited.

3. All security and safety measures are always taken at recruitment rally sites. However attention of all concerned has been invited to be more careful.

4. The Prime Minister has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 Lakh each to families of those who have died in this tragic incident.In addition, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 Lakh each to the families of those who have died, Rs. 25,000 each to those who are severely injured and Rs. 5,000 each to those who have received minor injuries.